

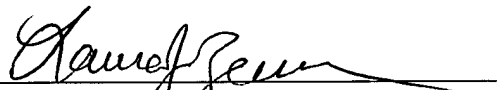
REMARKS

In the July 23, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 12, 16, 17, 21, 22 and 27 and objected to claims 4-11, 13-15, 18-20, 23-26 and 28-30. This response cancels claims 1-30, without prejudice or disclaimer, and presents new claims 33-53 for consideration. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 33-53 (11 independent claims; 20 total claims) remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has stated that claims 4-11, 13-15, 18-20, 23-26 and 28-30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In order to expedite the issuance of a patent, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-30, without prejudice or disclaimer, and have rewritten claims 4-11, 13-15, 18-20, 23-26 and 28-30 as new claims 33-53 in order to overcome the Examiner's objection. Applicants further reserve their right to file a continuation application directed to claims 1-3, 12, 16, 17, 21, 22 and 27 rejected by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. §112 and are allowable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the above in greater detail or deem that further amendments should be made to improve the form of the claims, then the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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